

# QHS Newsletter

Autumn Term 2016



QUINTON HOUSE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

Recently I asked one of my colleagues, what was their reason for staying in teaching for so many years. Their reply was that they loved doing a job where no two days were the same, where you never knew exactly what was going to happen. I'm not sure if that is why I have stayed in education for so long but there is no denying the variety of my job as Headteacher. The run up to the Christmas holidays has included handing out Year 11 Mock examination results, taking part in a Christingle Service with Reception, Q1 and Q2, handing out raffle prizes at the Senior Citizens Christmas event, watching a Nativity, attending Parents' Evenings, listening to concerts and who could have failed to be touched when Nursery visited my office to post their letters to Santa in my 'magic fireplace'. It is very true that no two days are ever the same, but there are underlying principles that do remain the same every day. The school exists because of its pupils, they are the most important part of our school community, but by themselves the school would be a strange place, it takes parents and staff to make the school what it is. Every day we work together to enable the pupils to achieve the best they possibly can, we strive together to create the school that Quinton is.

We are sad to say goodbye to three members of staff at the end of this term. Mr Civil is retiring from teaching music after many years in the classroom. Miss McNaulty, who has been a member of our study support team, and Mr Hayward, our site manager also leave us. They will all be missed.

We are delighted to say that Mr Matthew White will be joining the music department in January, he is a highly talented musician, who was a finalist in the brass section of the BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2008. His passion and enthusiasm for both music and education will be an asset to the school.



At the beginning of this term we held information sessions about the new assessment and reporting processes we are using across the school. I do hope that the information that you have received this term has allowed you to know how well your children are progressing. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are ever concerned about the progress of your child.

Thank you to all parents who took part in the Voice of Parent survey. Your feedback is much appreciated and we will be sending you more details of the way in which we are moving the school forward in the light of your feedback in the near future.

I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Term starts for pupils again on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

With best wishes

Ms C Cozens

Headteacher



## Cast:

Macbeth  
**Daniel Mackenzie**

Lady Macbeth  
**Tabitha Brown**

Banquo/Apparition  
3/Ensemble  
**Hannah van den  
Brandeler**

Witch 1/Murderer 1  
**Tapi Kumpane**

Witch 2/Murderer 2  
**Millie Pates**

Witch 3/Murderer 3  
**Lauren Luke**

King Duncan  
**Oliver Gifford**

Macduff  
**William Carter**

Malcolm  
**William Strawson**

Ross  
**Randall Morris**

Lennox  
**Anya Duncan**

Angus/Apparition 1  
**Mattaues Wardley**

Mentieth/Apparition  
2/Ensemble  
**Cerys Schofield**

Fleance/Ensemble  
**Harry Dunham**

# Shakespeare Festival: Macbeth

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November Quinton House School participated in the Shakespeare Schools Festival, the largest festival of its kind in the UK.

We arrived at the venue (thanks to our chauffeur Mr Muskin) very excited and enthusiastic to begin. The Royal Theatre is a beautiful Victorian theatre in the centre of Northampton and we were privileged to be able to perform our production of Macbeth on such a prestigious stage.

The students first had a technical rehearsal – this is a rehearsal where students just rehearse parts of scenes that need a lighting or sound cue so it is more for the technical crew than the students, although obviously they are experiencing the lighting and sound on stage for the first time. Technical rehearsals are known to take hours and ours was no exception but the students were all very professional.



*“Overall I found the Shakespeare Festival exciting, interesting and just a really great event that the Macbeth cast and I enjoyed thoroughly. The biggest challenge for me was learning all those lines within a short period of time. I have never played a main part before so to play Macbeth was an unforgettable experience for both me and my family.”*

*Daniel Mackenzie (Year 11) – Macbeth*

Once this had finished we had a full dress rehearsal which was watched by Northgate School who would be performing with us that evening. The students were amazing in the dress rehearsal and with the full costumes and make up the production really came to life. Buzzing for the evening performance, we had our tea and nervously waited to hear what timeslot we had been allocated.

At 6pm we were called to the stage for a vocal warm up led by the Shakespeare Festival staff; we were then told we would be performing last and so would be able to watch the first half. We watched Northgate Art's School's innovative performance of Romeo and Juliet, set in the 1980s and then a hilarious Twelfth Night from Preston Hedge's Primary School .

*"The Shakespeare Schools Festival was amazing and I'm really glad I took part! As soon as we arrived at the theatre we changed into costume; had a tech run-through and received great advice from the team there; it was incredible to see what it would be like in a more professional environment. Our performance went amazingly well and we received a lot of support from the other casts, which was wonderful, since they also all did extremely well. I loved the entire experience and cannot wait for next time!"*

*Hannah van den Brandeler (Year 8) - Banquo*

*"I found the Shakespeare Festival experience an amazing thing to be a part of. Seeing the talents of the other schools was great because we got to meet new friends and see different versions of Shakespeare. To have the part of Lady Macbeth was an amazing opportunity that I'm never going to forget but without the rest of the cast the show wouldn't have been half as good as it eventually was. I was always a fan of Shakespeare but really evaluating the language made me appreciate him even more!"*

*Tabitha Brown (Year 11) – Lady Macbeth*

After the interval it was our turn. Students waited backstage while Emily Jordan put the finishing touches to hair and make-up and then we were called to the stage. The students did amazingly well and the atmosphere backstage was one of high excitement but also extremely focused. The Shakespeare Festival is a lot of work for everyone involved but it really showcases some of the amazing talent in our school.

Special mention must go to Hannah van den Brandeler who faced the massive task of playing Banquo when another student became ill two weeks before the production. Hannah did an amazing job of learning the lines and was a true professional. However all the students were fabulous and really brought my vision of a 1940s wartime Macbeth to life. Thanks too to Mr Worby for accompanying us and taking some stunning pictures; Mrs Russell for helping out on the evening itself and all the parents and staff who came to support us.



# Guide to New GCSE Grading System

Cognita's Director of Education, Simon Camby, has put together a simple guide to the new GCSE grading system. You can view a copy on the school website as follows:

[www.quintonhouseschool.co.uk/guide-new-gcse-grading-system/](http://www.quintonhouseschool.co.uk/guide-new-gcse-grading-system/)



## Year 11 into Sixth Form Taster Day

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November QHS held a Sixth Form taster day for all year 11 students. Teachers of A-Level showcased their subjects and all year 11 students visited 10 taster sessions, according to what they may decide to pursue at A-Level. Students arrived dressed in business attire looking very smart. After an introductory talk by a representative from Northampton University on Higher Education, a current Northampton university student studying law gave a colourful insight into student life at university. This was followed by an introductory talk by Ms Weir and Mr Knox about life in the Sixth Form. At the end of the day there was a very positive vibe after the taster sessions with the individual A-Level teachers. Most students found the information given out very useful in helping them to decide which subjects they might study in year 12/13.

A big thank you to everyone involved in helping the day run so successfully.

Please remember applications from year 11 students for QHS Sixth Form are due in as soon as possible.

Ms Weir and Mr Knox

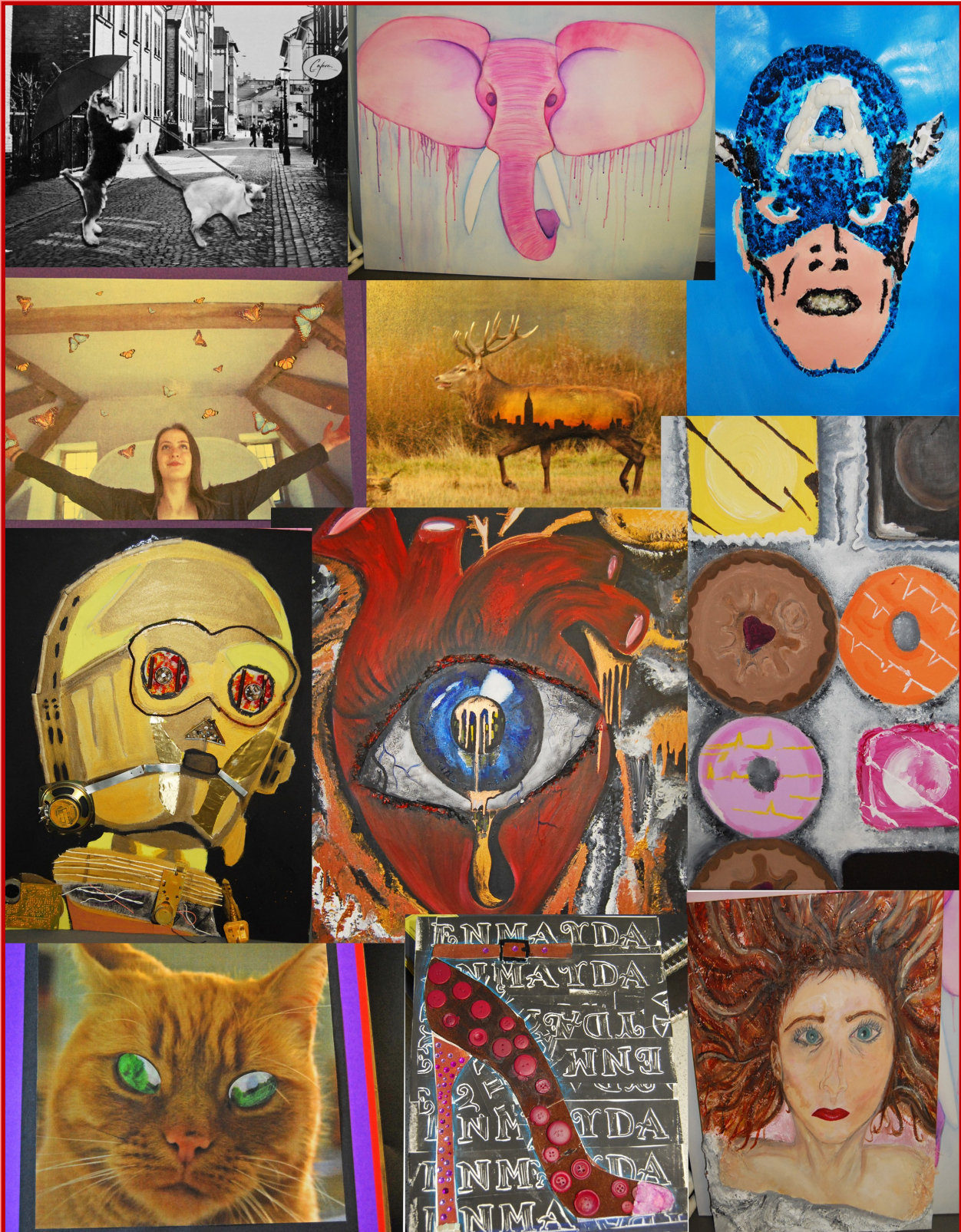
Co-Heads of Sixth Form

# Year 11 Art & Photography

All students worked hard during their mock exams and have built up more evidence to enhance their grades and are now trying to refine and complete their ideas.

The collage below shows a mixture of outcomes from the exam.

Work by: Isobel Orton, Ashleigh Inwood, Tarran Virdee, Bethany Webster, Luke Esson, Lucy Huang, Cameron Duncan, Morgan Weatherley, George Finch, Vritika Mistry and Hannah Hall.



For more information on the show (including photos and videos) go to: <https://www.worldskillsuk.org/the-skills-show>

## Year 12 Attend Skills Show at NEC

To help our students make choices about future careers and/or Higher Education the Year 12 students enjoyed a trip to the Skills Show at the Birmingham NEC on Friday 18th November.

Covering the space of over seven football pitches, The Skills Show gives students the chance to explore a wealth of career options and skills across five inspiring sectors: Built Environment, Cultural & Creative Arts, Engineering, IT & Business Administration and Social & Professional Services.

The Skills Show brings skills to life for students, giving them the chance to learn about the latest education, training, qualifications and career opportunities in an engaging and inspiring way. Pupils tried out skills, watched talented young people and heard from industry insiders in the many 'spotlight speakers' lecture theatres. They also had the chance to speak to exhibitors and expert advisers from the National Careers Service who were on hand to give information and advice on skills, potential career choices, and the different routes into careers (including the modern day professional apprenticeship, with many companies now taking on and 'fast-tracking' talented A-level students).



worldskillsuk



# Sixth Form Employability Skills, CV and Interview Workshops

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November, the Sixth Form students benefited from a careers event focused on employability and perfecting their CVs.

Pupils benefited from a series of talks and activities from nine local professionals who came into school to provide inspiring advice on employability skills and how to appeal to employers through demonstrating talent and experience.

Volunteers from a range of industries gave their time and expertise, encouraging our young professionals to gain employability skills while at school or university.

The second part of the workshop focused on refining a CV, delivering invaluable tips to our students. Advice on how to improve current CVs and enhance their presentation was shared and implemented by all. Our thanks go to all of the volunteers who represented businesses and organisations from psychology to construction to accountancy on the day.

Then, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, Barclays Life Skills came in to conduct mock interviews with our year 13 pupils. There was a brief opening talk from the Barclays team encouraging pupils to think of themselves as problem solvers. Pupils then worked in pairs and listened to each other being interviewed, feeding back on how it went. The interviewer also fed back.

The interviews also included a curve ball question which was designed to make pupils think on their feet, e.g. “If you were an animal what would you be and why?” and “If you were Prime Minister of this country what one law would you bring in and why?”

The interviews were generally focused around a university-style interview, providing pupils with valuable interview practice for their chosen future paths.

# LifeSkills

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## New Website & Virtual Tour

This half term our new website went live. We invite you to take a tour. A dedicated 'Parents' Area' provides handy links to the most commonly viewed pages.

Visit us now! [www.quintonhouseschool.co.uk](http://www.quintonhouseschool.co.uk)

Our new site also features a virtual tour, utilising Google technology to navigate round the grounds and indoors.

Explore now at [www.quintonhouseschool.co.uk/virtual-tour](http://www.quintonhouseschool.co.uk/virtual-tour)

We'd also like to take the opportunity to remind you that we are active on social media. Follow us on Twitter and like our Facebook page now to stay up to date on news and events!



## Voice of the Parent Survey

Thank you to all parents who participated in the Pulse survey. We will be in touch with you in due course to share with you the results of our analysis and action plans.



# Parent Ball: 24th June 2107



QUINTON HOUSE SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

THE 2017 PARENT BALL

ALSO CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF QUINTON HOUSE AS A SCHOOL

24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017 7PM ONWARDS

AT

THE HILTON AT COLLINGTREE

Quinton House School Parents' Association is holding the 2017 Parent Ball at the Hilton in Collingtree on 24th June from 7pm. The dress code is black tie or 1940s theme in celebration of 70 years of Quinton House as a school. Tickets are priced at £55 per head.

Tickets are selling fast! Secure yours today by contacting Trish Davies at [patricia.davies@quintonhouseschool.co.uk](mailto:patricia.davies@quintonhouseschool.co.uk).

## Children in Need

A whole school mufti day at Quinton House School has raised an impressive £538 in support of Children In Need. We thank parents, pupils and staff for all their donations for this wonderful cause.

## Chocolate Tub Donations

Over Christmas, you are likely to be consuming vast quantities of sweets, chocolates and biscuits! Could we please ask that you keep any spare tubs and donate them to the Food department?

We use these large tubs and tins with lids as spare containers for any student that may forget theirs!

Please bring any donations to H17 or drop them into the Senior School reception.

Thank you in advance and a very Merry Christmas!

Food Technology Department.

# Christmas Concerts

The last week of term has seen two wonderful Christmas concerts led by Q9-Q13 in St Michael's Church and Q5-Q8 in the Junior School Courtyard. Both programmes were packed with amazing talent including the Quinton Jazz group, the Quinton singers, our woodwind ensemble, the Quinton Quintet, soloist singers and instrumentalists, and individual readings. Contemporary tunes were mixed with more traditional carols, all delighting the audience. Huge thanks to all involved in the events and those who came along to support them.



# Senior Citizens Concert

On 6th December the Senior School ballroom and conservatory were the venues for a very special event.

Eighteen senior citizens from care homes and sheltered housing developments in Northampton were welcomed to an afternoon of entertainment, a home baked high tea and festive celebrations at the annual Quinton House School Senior Citizens' Christmas Concert.

Now in its fourth year, guests enjoyed a full programme of magical musical performances by children aged 5 to 16 (Year 1 to Year 11). The schedule included traditional Christmas carols and more contemporary pieces performed by music ensembles, soloist singers and duets, the Quinton Quintet and the Quinton Singers. The senior citizens, their carers, activity co-ordinators and staff joined in with familiar tunes. A wonderful atmosphere was enjoyed by all.

The guests were served a high tea with sandwiches prepared by Mr Davies and a selection of delicious cakes baked by year 11 and year 13 pupils in their Food Technology classes. Our sixth formers prepared wonderful hampers generously donated by the school's parents and staff which were distributed to all guests. We would like to thank our Quinton parents for their generosity and this sentiment was echoed loudly by our guests.

The guests had a wonderful afternoon and all commented how much they enjoyed the children's performances and the delicious tea.

Mary Brown, Residents Support Worker at St Christopher's Home said, 'Residents and staff look forward to coming to the concert at Quinton House every year. It is such a pleasure to see all the children perform.'

A huge thank you to all the pupils, staff and parents involved in this tremendous, worthwhile event.



# QHS Hockey Season 2016

This year saw the girls of Quinton House School compete in the most amount of hockey fixtures they've ever had. Opposition consisted of many schools within the county and beyond, including Kimbolton, Akeley Wood School, Oundle School, Bloxham School, Tudor Hall, Northampton High School, Thornton College, and the Royal Latin School, to name a few. The girls braved all weather conditions, and come rain or shine, they braced themselves for the elements and gave it their all, regardless of who their opposition was. Travelling away to all of their fixtures, the girls gave up many of their evenings to represent their school and they should be very proud of their performances.

The season started off with an usually warm September, which gave the U16s the opportunity to sample some international-standard playing rules, playing in quarters as opposed to halves, due to the incredible heat. This gave the team a chance to regroup after each quarter and work on different elements of their game. Throughout the season, the girls worked together and began to link with each other to form moments of strong attacking play. Though their season was quite defensive, with the backs absorbing a lot of pressure, the girls did extremely well to keep the score line down, with Libby acting as a reliable force in goal, stopping most shots put in her direction.

The U14 and 15 squad have had a very successful season. They faced tough opposition but were successful against Wellingborough School, winning 1-0, and their greatest victory of the season – beating Stowe School 7-0! This squad worked hard to link together and begin to play textbook hockey. Gone were the days of “hit and hope”, but now the girls looked for the right player to pass to, to send the ball into the space for someone to run on to and pick up on the move, to take the quick free-hit to confuse the opposition, to dribble forward on a push back to create the element of surprise. Facing fixture after fixture each week, the girls had to improve through game play, and they did just that! Each week, they got better and better, and it was a pleasure to coach and watch them improve.

The U12 and 13 squad had a particularly tough season. With many of the U12s never having played hockey before, they worked tirelessly to learn new skills and the rules of the game, and then apply them in match environments. They faced tough opposition but showed serious grit and determination, and always worked hard, right to the final whistle. Highlights for the U13 squad include coming second in the Akeley Wood Tournament. The progress the girls made this season is tremendous and will stand to them next year.

All players should be very proud of their respective seasons. The girls of Quinton House School may not have won all their matches based on the numbers of goals scored, but they won for having the most fun on the bus, for always smiling and enjoying their hockey regardless of the score line or how cold it was! They won for their tremendous spirit and team camaraderie, for their “never say die” attitude and for their passion for the sport. They should all be incredibly proud of themselves and I look forward to coaching them next season.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Miss Suzanne Macken

Head of Hockey



# QHS Rugby Roundup

We have been entertained this season to a raft of fantastic fixtures.

I have been at the school for 5 years and I can't remember the school being so successful. Every team in every age group have shown the ability to win. I have had the privilege this year of either coaching or travelling with every rugby team in the school.

I am staggered by how much we have improved over the term, results going our way against major rivals such as Bedford, Wellingborough and Rushmoor. The teams this year have just had that little extra. I think we call it determination.

I am pleased that our new member of the PE team Mr Clarke has settled in so quickly and has produced excellent rugby teams at U13, U9 and U8. They have all trained hard and shown improvements across the season. The junior rugby club was once again well attended and with our coaching team of Mr Worby, Josh Bull (Q10), Harvey Johnson (Q10), Caleb Stone (Q10) and Aaron Mason (Q8) the younger members of our school have not only had exciting and fun rugby sessions but they are able to see our sporting ambassadors from the senior school as the role models that they are.

Results that stick in my head are;

The U11 victory V Bedford boys school. The year u11 boys really showed heart and determination to win as they secured victory in the final minutes.

The U13s V Bishop Stopford, as the boys were under great pressure over the first 20 minutes and then just found the answer and went on to win convincingly. However probably the best game this year was our u16 V Rushmoor, they were simply brilliant playing the most mature accurate rugby that I have seen played on the senior rugby pitch at Quinton House.

We can now truly say we have landed on the rugby scene in our area and beyond. We now look to our planning for next year with Uppingham and Rugby school both requesting fixtures for the 2017-18 season.

Keep up the good work boys we are all very proud of you.

Mr Tom Muskin—Director of Sport

